

**News Release**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of Rhode Island*



**March 24, 2005**



## **Gunman is sentenced to 40 months in prison**

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**Dwane Taylor, a convicted felon, discarded a pistol as he fled from Providence police**

A federal judge has sentenced **Dwane Taylor**, 21, to 40 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Taylor discarded a handgun as he fled from Providence Police officers last August.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on March 21 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In December, Taylor pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government could prove that, on August 9, as Providence Police Officers Dennis O'Brien and Thomas Zincone approached a group of people outside 49 Salmon Street, Taylor broke from the group, began to run, and tossed away a chrome pistol. With Zincone chasing on foot and O'Brien in their patrol car, the officers apprehended Taylor and retrieved the gun, a 9-millimeter pistol with a chambered round and seven rounds in the magazine.

Taylor, whose address is not indicated in federal court records, has a prior conviction for drug trafficking and, as a felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms.

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**Providence Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**

(ATF) investigated the case. The federal prosecution by Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee resulted from a joint review of the case by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office. The joint case review is part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

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